1: Conzemius M-4, 5 (1921) 1932
SA15 Mosquito SA15

225 manner as to fall vertically onto and thus pierce the tough shell of the turtle. If thrown obliquely it would glance off the smooth carapace. Upon being struck the turtle disappears in the water, dragging the long line with the boat along, but after a while it becomes exhausted by its struggle. The boat is swamped and placed under the turtle to haul it in, for the latter may weigh up to several hundred pounds. By shoving the canoe from one side to the other the Indians throw out enough water to allow it to float, while the remainder is bailed out with a calabash. After the extraction of the harpoon head, the wound is stopped with cloth; otherwise the turtle may die. These animals are also harpooned at night, their presence being indicated by the line of phosphorescent light they produce in the water. A smaller implement is employed for young sea turtles and for the different smaller varieties met with in the rivers.

TURTLE NETS.—The Miskito of Tasbapauni (Pearl Lagoon) also employ large turtle nets, from 50 to 100 fathoms in length and from 6 to 8 feet in width, made of imported twine. These nets have been introduced into the country by the fishermen from the Cayman Islands and the Bay Islands. These turtle nets have very large meshes; they are anchored at the bottom and floated with buoys placed along the margin. Wooden turtle decoys are also attached to them in order to attract the prize, which becomes entangled therein and is then easily caught. Sometimes turtles die in the nets, being unable to rise to the surface to breathe.

OTHER METHODS OF CATCHING TURTLES.—Sea turtles are also caught at night by the Indians, when they come to the shore to dig a hole in the sand to deposit their eggs therein. They then carefully cover up the hole again, and occasionally even deposit some leaves or driftwood on the spot, so as to prevent detection. The Indians are very clever in discovering the eggs, being guided by indications on the surface sand. They poke suspected places with pointed sticks and by the moist particles adhering to the latter they immediately perceive when an egg has been pierced. Upon withdrawing the stick they examine and smell it, and having come to a satisfactory conclusion they turn up the sand. The Indian will also run after the turtle, overhaul it, and turn it on its back so as to render it helpless.

The green sea turtle (M.: *uli, lih;* S.: *wili*) is considered a great delicacy while the loggerhead and the hawk's-bill are also eaten. The latter species furnishes the valuable shell. Turtles are penned in stockades or "crawls,"[45] made by driving heavy mangrove posts in the shallow sea water, until needed for food. [417]

Several species of tortoises, of which the largest is the bocatora (M.: *kuswa*[46]; S.: *kowa, kuwa*) are also greatly esteemed as food.

[45] From the Spanish corral, "cattle pen."

[46] M. W. (312) gives this name in the form *cuskuow*.